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February 29, 2000

The Honorable Bill Richardson, Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Richardson:

1 Recently, the Department of Energy conducted public hearings regarding the proposed Yucca Mountain Repository and the transportation of nuclear waste through the City of St. Louis. On behalf of the citizens of St. Louis and the surrounding region, I strongly urge you to prohibit the transportation of nuclear, toxic, or otherwise dangerous materials through this heavily-populated region of the Midwest.

As you are aware, the City of St. Louis sits at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers; operates an international airport; and sees the convergence of three major interstate highways in addition to numerous U.S. highways. Not only is the region home to more than 2.5 million people, but St. Louis is a major hub for travel by air, rail, water, and highway.

Because of our population and our unique and vital status as a major international hub for all modes of travel, the transportation of hazardous materials through our region greatly threatens the well-being of millions of residents here and down river. In addition, the rest of the nation would be negatively impacted if commerce were interrupted because of an accident or act of terrorism that would surely result while authorities handled the ensuing chaos of the situation.

I appreciate your consideration, Mr. Secretary, and strongly urge you and the Department of Energy to consider an alternate route instead of directly through the St. Louis region.

Sincerely,

Clarence Harmon
Mayor